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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SSC-01 /114 W
----------026376 170244Z /72
P R 170147Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9086
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0133

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, XF
SUBJECT: NY TIMES REPORT ON ISRAELI MISSION TO THE UN

1. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED ON JANUARY 16 THAT ISRAEL MISSION WILL UNDERGO THROUGH TURNOVER OF PERSONNEL THIS SUMMER AND THAT PLANNED STAFF REDUCTIONS SIGNAL A SNUB TO THE UN. ARTICLE IS REPRODUCED IN FULL IN PARA 3.

2. ISRAELI MISSOFF TOLD US THAT NY TIMES STORY IS MISLEADING. CONTRARY TO ARTICLE, THE ISRAELI MISSION INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THE SAME LEVEL OF ACTIVITY HERE AND PERSONELL CHANGES DO NOT REPRESENT A SNUB TO THE UNITED NATIONS. REDUCTIONS WILL CONSIST OF A JUNIOR REPORTING OFFICER, A PRESS ATTACHE, AND PROBABLY ONE OF THE THREE DEPUTY PERM REPS. ALL REMAINING MISSION OFFICERS, INCLUDING AMB. HERZOG, EXCEPT ONE, ARE EXPECTED TO BE REASSIGNED THIS SUMMER. REDUCTIONS ARE VIEWED PRIMARILY AS AN EFFORT TO ECONOMIZE ON FOREIGN MINISTRY PERSONNEL EXPENDITURES. ISRAELI MISSION WOULD NECESSARILY BE SUPPLEMENTED FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES, LOS, SPECIAL SESSIONS, ETC.
(NOTE: WHILE ISRAELI MISSOFF DOWNPLAYED ANY SPECIAL
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SIGNIFICANCE BEING ATTACHED TO REDUCTIONS OTHER THAN BUDGETARY, IT IS OBVIOUS A CUT OF THREE DIPLMATS ON A STAFF OF NINE (INCLUDING HERZOG) WILL AFFECT THE WORK OUTPUT. FURTHER, SENDING SUPPLEMENTARY PERSONNEL FROM ISRAEL MAY NOT PROVE TO BE A SOUND ECONOMY MOVE.)

"ISRAEL RUEDUCING ITS U.N. MISSION; MOVE SEEN AS SNUB TO WORLD

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BODY"

BY KATHLEEN TELTSCH
SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., JAN 15-THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS
DECIDED ON A MAJOR SHAKEUP OF ITS UNITED NATIONS MISSION.
THE CHANGES WILL CUT THE SIZE OF THE DELEGATION AND CURTAIL
SOME ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE GIVEN THE MISSION HIGH VISIBIL-
ITY, BOTH AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY.
NINE OF THE TEN MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WILL BE LEAVING BY
SUMMER AND THE INTENTION IS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF DIPLOMAT-
IC POSTS IN THE FUTURE TO FIVE.
REDUCTION IS PARTLY A BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION A SUGGESTION
THAT THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SHOULD TAKE ON MORE OF THE
ACTIVITIES VARIOUSLY CHARACTERIZED A "LOBBYING" OR "INFORMATION
SERVICES."
CHAIM HERZOG, ISRAEL'S CHIEF DELEGATE, HAD BEEN EXPECTED
TO RETURN HOME WHEN HE COMPLETED HIS THREE YEARS THIS SUMMER.
HIS THREE DEPUTIES, WHO HOLD THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR,
ALSO EXPECTED TO BE REASSIGNED. BUT IT NOW APPEARS THAT
OF THE POSITIONS WILL BE ELIMINATED.
THESE AND OTHER CHANGES WERE DECIDED UPON WHEN EPHRIAM EVGON,
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, VISITED RECENTLY.

SUGGESTION OF COOL ATTITUDE
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OTHER DELEGATIONS, WHICH GAUGE THE SIZE AND CALIBER OF MISSIONS
AS A REFLECTION OF GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES, ARE LIKELY TO SEE
THE CUTBACKS AS A DEMONSTRATION BY PRIME MINISTER MENAHEM
BEGIN'S GOVERNMENT OF ITS POOR REGARD FOR THE UNITED NATIONS
AS A FORUM FOR FOREIGN POLICY.
THE ISRAEL HAS LONG ARGUED THAT THEY CANNOT GET A FAIR HEARING
IN THE UNITED NATIONS BECAUSE OF THE OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION
OF THE ARAB AND COMMUNIST BLOCS, POINTING TO THE MANY ANIT-
ISRAELI RESOLUTIONS APPROVED AT EACH GENERAL SSSEMBLY
SESSIONS.
THE ISRAELIS HAVE COUNTRED BY PURSUING AN AGGRESSIVE
STRAEGY WITH FREQUENT SPEECHES ATTACKING THEIR OPPONENTS IN
THE PUBLIC DEBATE AND BY VIGOROUS LOBBYING, PARTICULAR AMONG
UNCOMMITTED THEIR-WORLD COUNTRIES.
THE DELEGATION MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE IN MATNTAINING CONTACTS WITH
PRIVATE GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES, JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH,
AND TRYING TO WIN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S POSITION. MR.
HERZOG MADE 100 SPEECHES LAST YEAR TO SUCH GROUPS.
THE POSITION OF DELEGATION SPOKESMAN, NOW HELD BY TUVIA
SAAR, A FORMER ISRAELI BROADCASTER, IS TO BE ELIMINATED.
PRESS ACTIVITIES WILL BE SHIFTED TOTHE ISRAELI CONSULATE,

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WHICH ALSO IS BEING RESHUFFLED AND REDUCED IN AMANPOWER.
THE REDUCTIONS HAVE BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN JERUSALEM.
THE CHANGES ALSO ARE BEING TALKED ABOUT BY AMERICAN JEWISH
GROUPS, WHICH CUSTOMARILY SEEK ISRAELI DIPLOMATS AS
GUEST SPEAKERS.
MR. HERZOG, WHO WILL BE RETURNING TO PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE IN
ISRAEL, TOLD AN INTERVIEWER LAST WEEK THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN
WISER COURSE TO "DOUBLE THE ESTABLISHMENT" RATHER THAN REDUCE IT.
HE ALSO REMARKED THAT IS WAS INEXPLICABLE THAT ISRAELI INFORMA-
TION SERVICES WERE BEING SCALED BACK AT A TIME WHEN THE UNITED
NATIONS WAS ESTABLISHING A NEW INFORMATION FACILITY TO PROMOTE
THE CAUSE OF THE PALESTINIANS.
NO SUCCESSOR TO MR. HERZOG HAS BEEN NAMED AND SOME CONSIDERATION
IS BEING GIVEN TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE
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OFFICER TO THE UNITED NATIONS POSITION, WHICH WOULD REFLECT
A CHANGE OF POLICY. MR. HERZOG WAS THE DIRECTOR OF MILITARY
INTELLIGENCE IN ISRAEL AND LATER A POLITICAL COMMENTATOR AND
WRITER.
ISRAEL'S AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, SIMCHA DINITZ, ALSO IS LEAVING
HIS POST AND MR. EVRON IS SAID TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION TO
REPLACE HIM. "

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